

#10/A
2-28-03
B. Hilliard

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

BENTON ET AL.

CASE NO.: FA0881 US NA

CONFIRMATION NO.: 5926

SERIAL NO.: 09/536,137

GROUP ART UNIT: 2171

FILED: MARCH 28, 2000

EXAMINER: C. NGUYEN

FOR: COLOR MATCHING METHOD FOR
AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
FEB 27 2003
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

This is Applicants' response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2002 in the above-referenced application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended version:

1. (Amended) A method for determining a refinish colorcoat composition that matches the color and color effect of a vehicle's original finish, which comprises in any workable order:

(a) gathering the VIN (vehicle identification number) and manufacturer's paint code from a vehicle needing refinishing;

(b) extracting from the VIN the model year and manufacturing site information for that vehicle;

(c) searching a database that contains the manufacturer's paint codes, refinish data assigned to each paint code that indicates the matching refinish colorcoat compositions created for that particular paint code, and VIN numbers assigned to each refinish colorcoat composition that indicates the model year and manufacturing site for which that particular refinish colorcoat composition was developed; and,

(d) identifying the refinish colorcoat composition in the database that matches the paint code, model year, and manufacturing site extracted from the

Sale
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